

## APPENDIX 4. A COMPARISON OF INTERNET USE AND HEALTH STATUS OF POPULATIONS THAT EXPERIENCE HEALTH DISPARITIES

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This appendix provides side-by-side comparisons of Internet use and health status measures according to the *Healthy People 2010* population categories for which data were available at the time of analysis. Not all health topics have measures for each variable. For example, diabetes has measures for race and ethnicity, gender, education level, geographic location, and age, whereas obesity has measures for race and ethnicity and gender only. These categories are those variables associated with health disparities. The data presented in this section highlight health status measures for diabetes, obesity, asthma, heart disease and stroke, cancer, physical activity, and tobacco use for select populations as well as the related Internet use profiles.

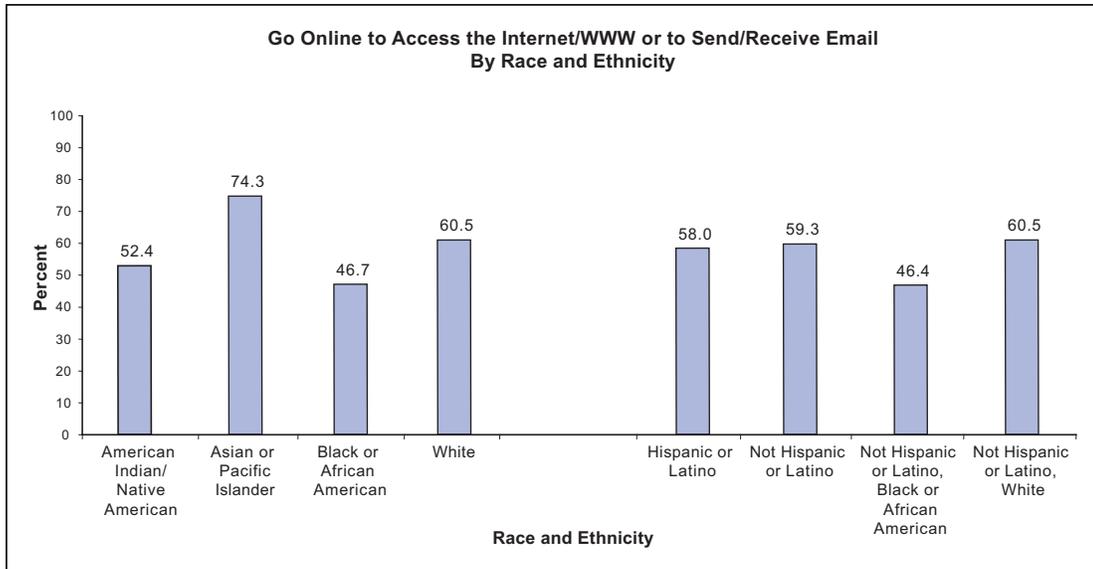
Data from the 2002–2003 Pew Internet & American Life Project’s Daily Internet Tracking Survey were the primary source of data for the technology profiles on Internet use. In addition, data from *DATA2010*, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s interactive database system for tracking *Healthy People 2010*, were used to present health status data as of January 2004. Although the absolute numbers of persons accessing the Internet were lower in 2002–2003 than in the most current Pew surveys (September 2005), the proportions hold true (S. Fox, personal communication, December 2005. See also [www.pewinternet.org/trends/user\\_demo\\_12.05.05.htm](http://www.pewinternet.org/trends/user_demo_12.05.05.htm)).

# 1. DIABETES

## 1.1 Race and Ethnicity

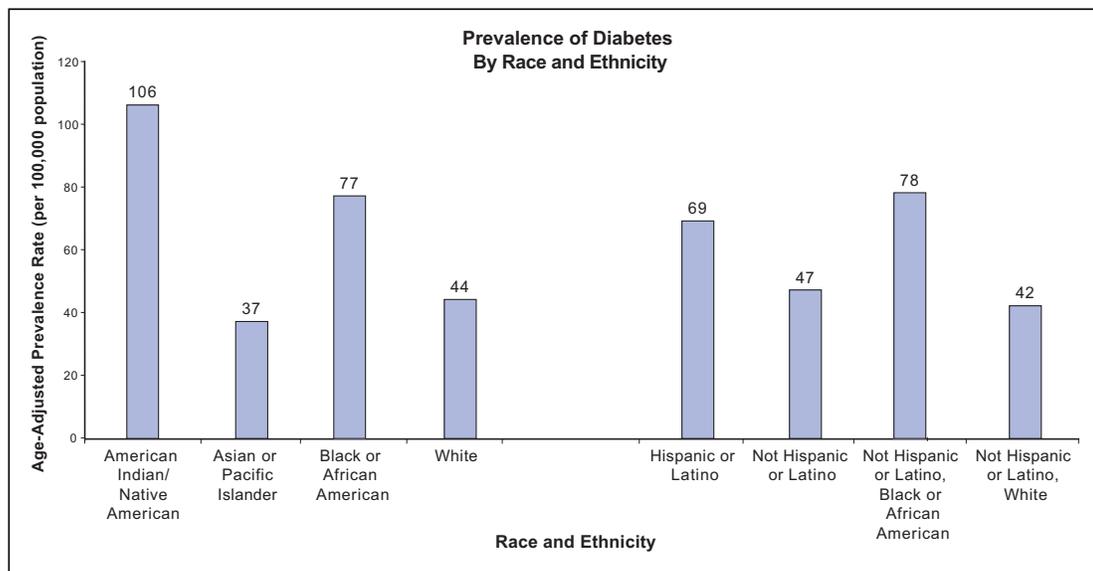
American Indians/Alaska Natives, Hispanics/Latinos, and Blacks/African Americans have higher rates of diabetes compared to other racial and ethnic groups and also have the lowest rates of Internet use (Figures 1 and 2).

Figure 1



Source: Pew Internet & American Life Project's Daily Internet Tracking Survey, 2002-2003

Figure 2



Source: CDC Wonder. DATA2010...the Healthy People 2010 Database. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, January 2004

## 1.2 Gender

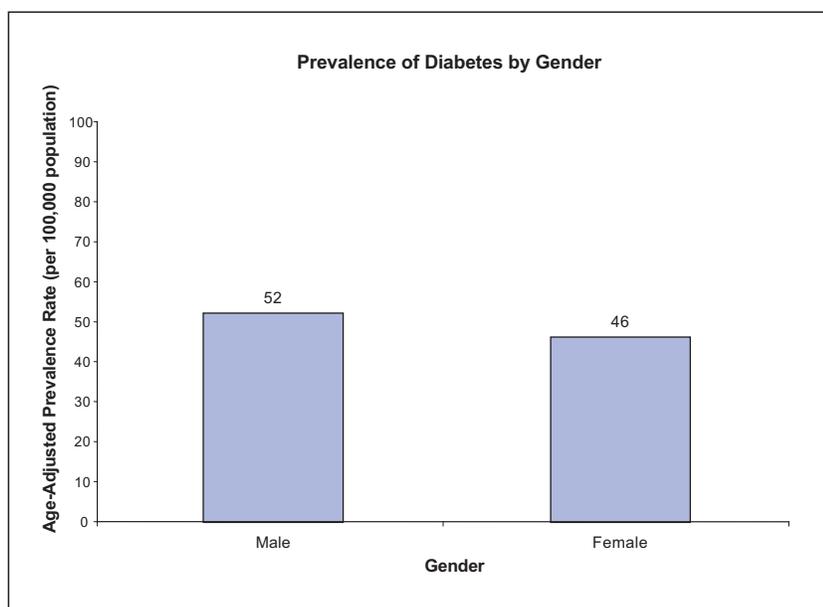
Disparities in diabetes prevalence do not appear to exist between males and females, which is also the pattern with Internet use (Figures 3 and 4).

Figure 3



Source: Pew Internet & American Life Project's Daily Internet Tracking Survey, 2002–2003

Figure 4

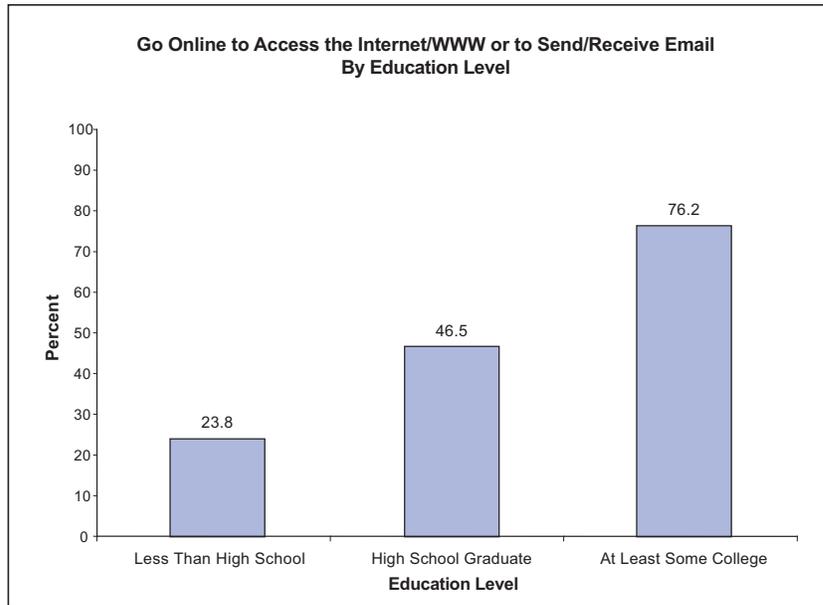


Source: CDC Wonder. DATA2010...the Healthy People 2010 Database. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, January 2004

### 1.3 Education Level

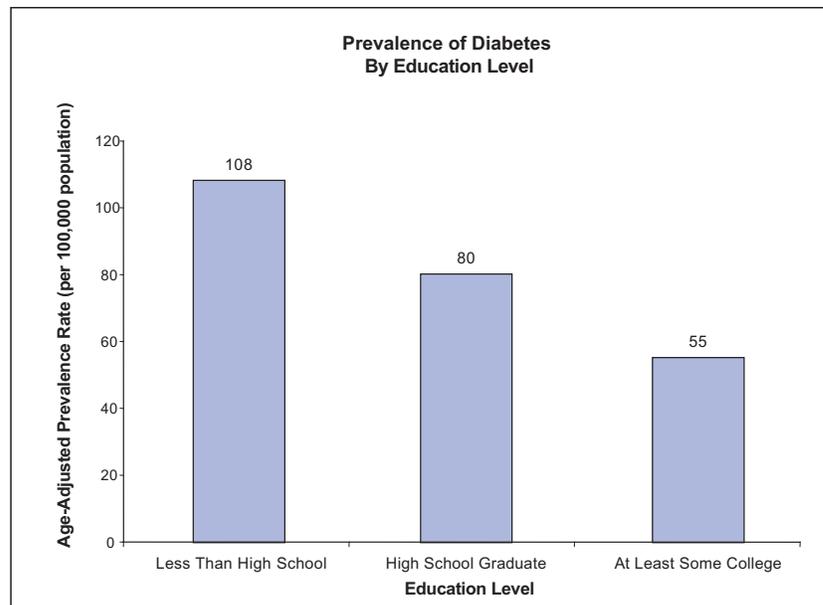
Individuals with lower levels of education have higher rates of diabetes, but they have lower rates of Internet use compared to those with higher levels of education (Figures 5 and 6).

Figure 5



Source: Pew Internet & American Life Project's Daily Internet Tracking Survey, 2002–2003

Figure 6

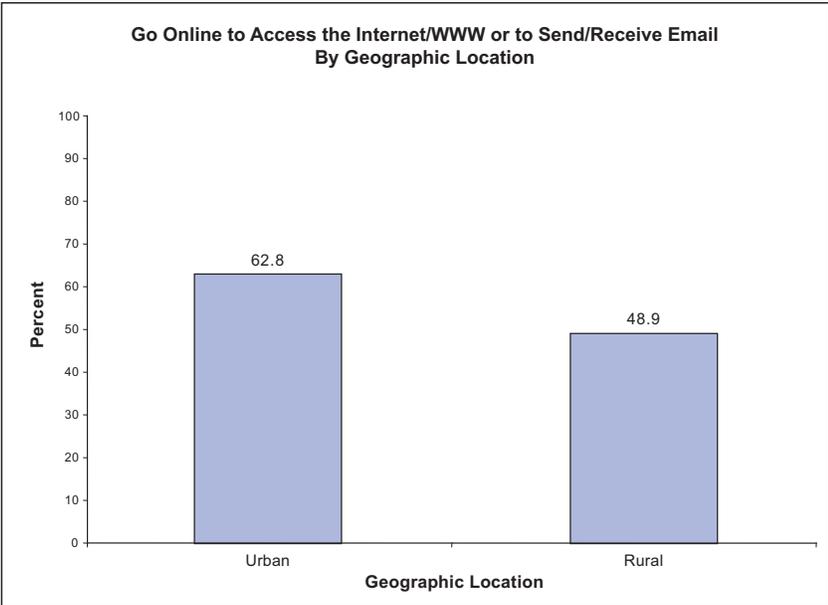


Source: CDC Wonder. DATA2010...the Healthy People 2010 Database. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, January 2004

### 1.4 Geographic Location

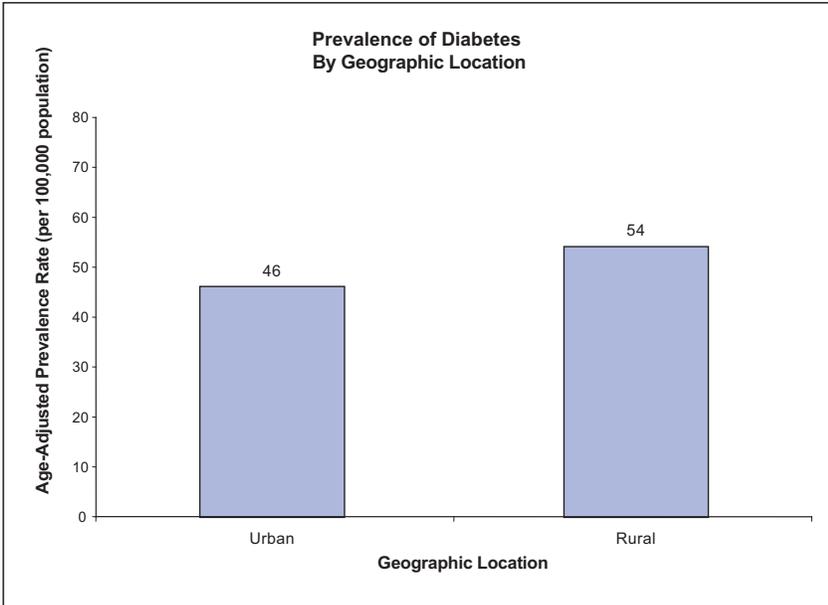
Those living in rural areas experience slightly higher rates of diabetes and also have lower rates of Internet use compared to those living in urban areas (Figures 7 and 8).

Figure 7



Source: Pew Internet & American Life Project's Daily Internet Tracking Survey, 2002-2003

Figure 8

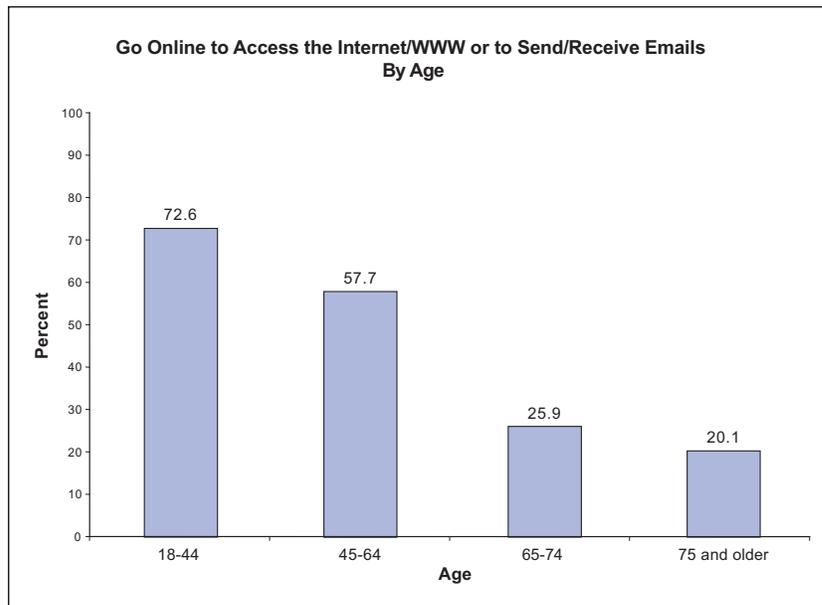


Source: CDC Wonder. DATA2010...the Healthy People 2010 Database. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, January 2004

## 1.5 Age

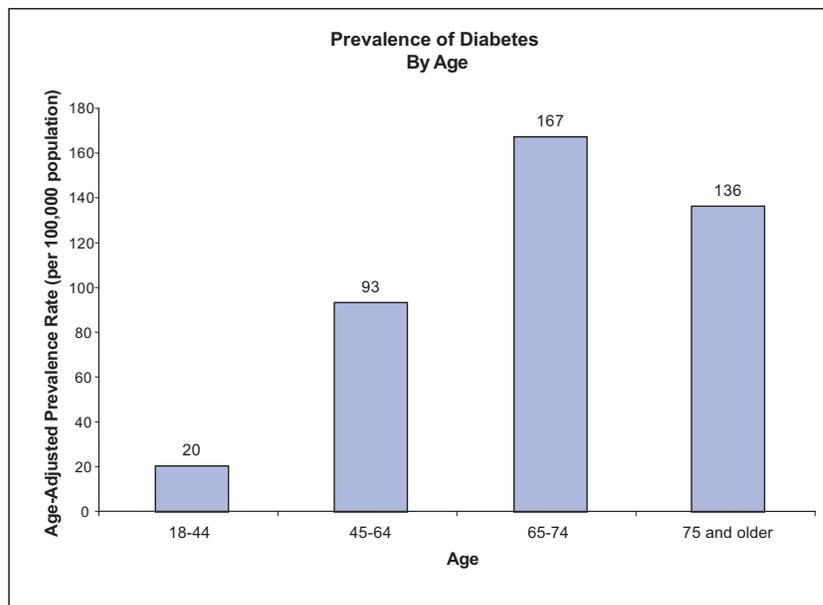
Elderly populations (made up of individuals age 65 and older) have higher rates of diabetes compared to younger populations yet have the lowest rates of Internet use of all age groups (Figures 9 and 10).

Figure 9



Source: Pew Internet & American Life Project's Daily Internet Tracking Survey, 2002-2003

Figure 10



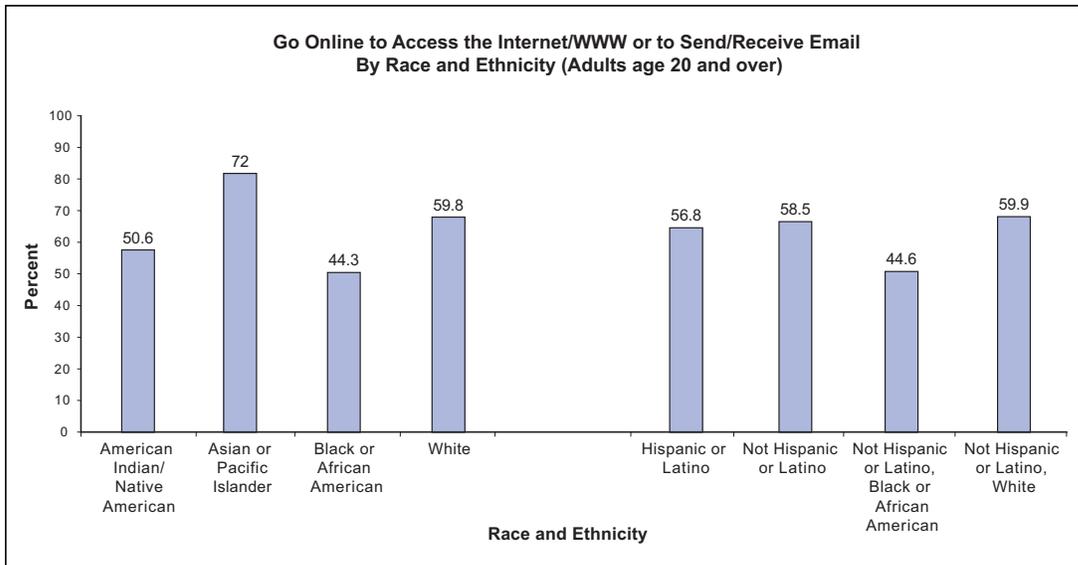
Source: CDC Wonder. DATA2010...the Healthy People 2010 Database. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, January 2004

## 2. OBESITY

### 2.1 Race and Ethnicity

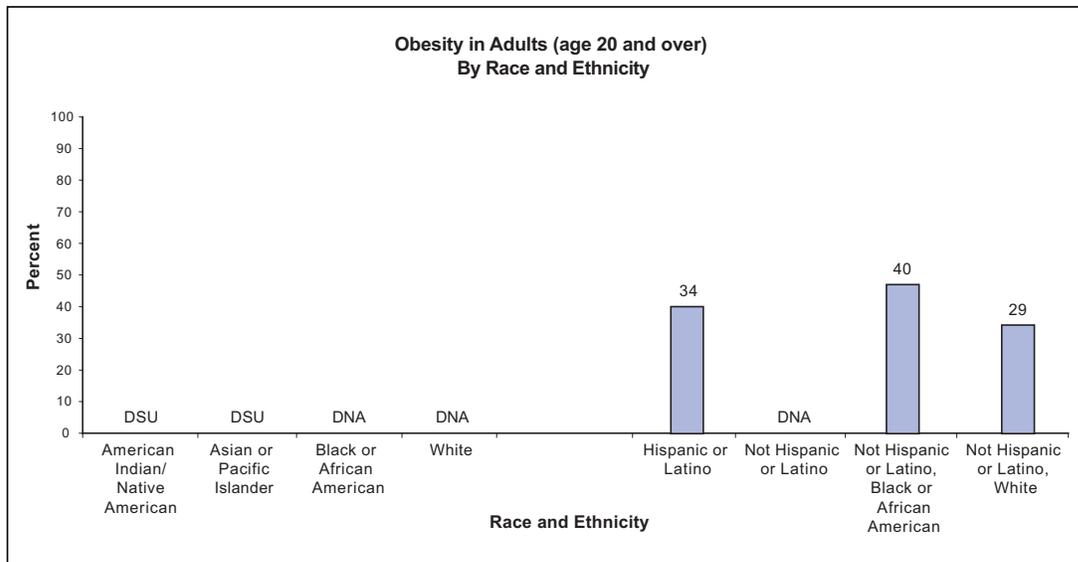
The rate of obesity is slightly higher for Hispanics/Latinos and non-Hispanic Blacks/African Americans compared to non-Hispanic Whites (Figure 12). On the other hand, rates of Internet use for Hispanics/Latinos and Blacks/African Americans are lower than for non-Hispanic Whites (Figure 11).

Figure 11



Source: Pew Internet & American Life Project's Daily Internet Tracking Survey, 2002–2003

Figure 12



Source: CDC Wonder. DATA2010...the Healthy People 2010 Database. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, January 2004

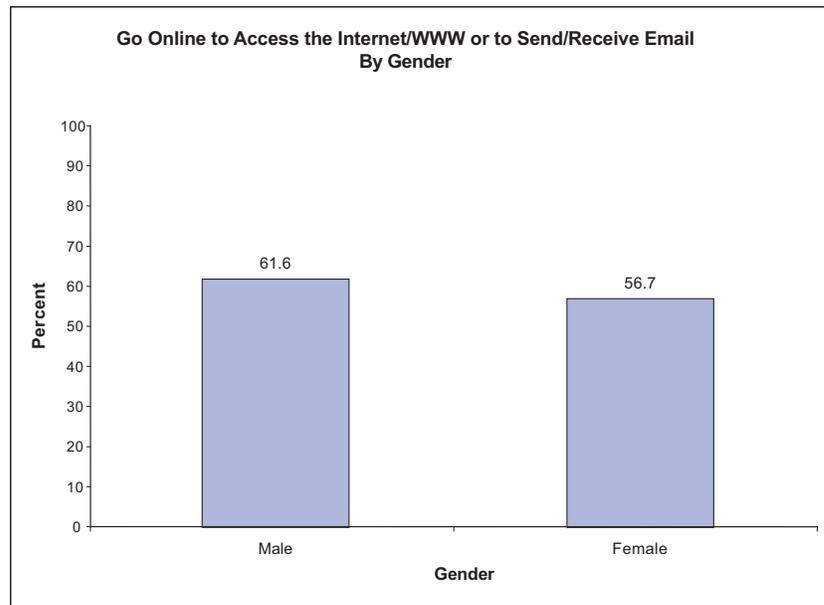
DSU = Data do not meet the criteria for statistical reliability, data quality, or confidentiality.

DNA = Data for specific population are not collected.

## 2.2 Gender

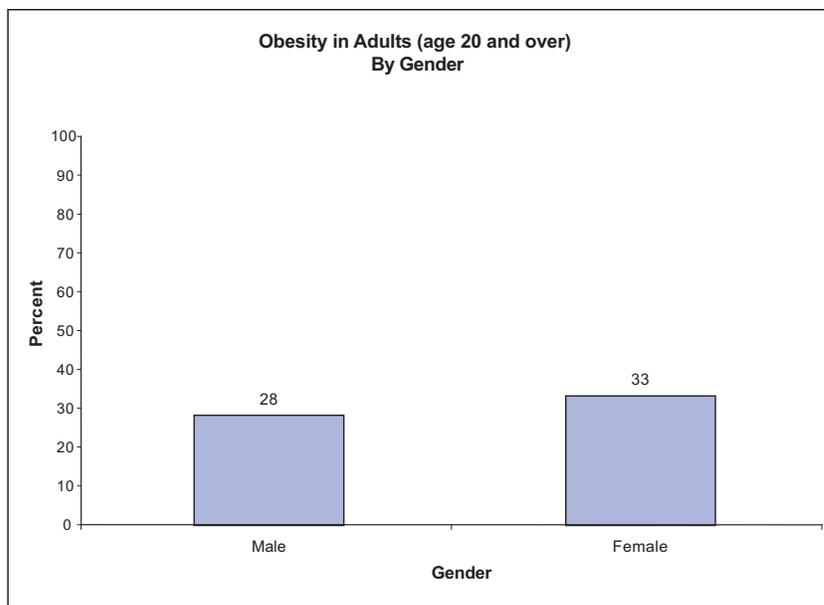
Gender differences in obesity do not appear to be large; similarly, Internet use does not appear to differ largely between males and females (Figures 13 and 14).

Figure 13



Source: Pew Internet & American Life Project's Daily Internet Tracking Survey, 2002–2003

Figure 14



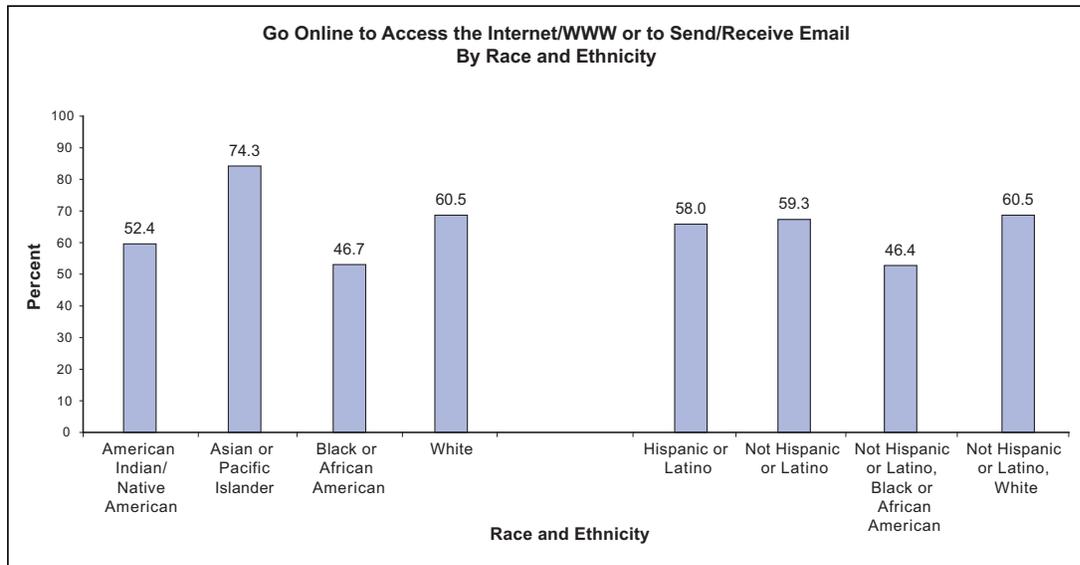
Source: CDC Wonder. DATA2010...the Healthy People 2010 Database. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, January 2004

### 3. ASTHMA

#### 3.1 Race and Ethnicity

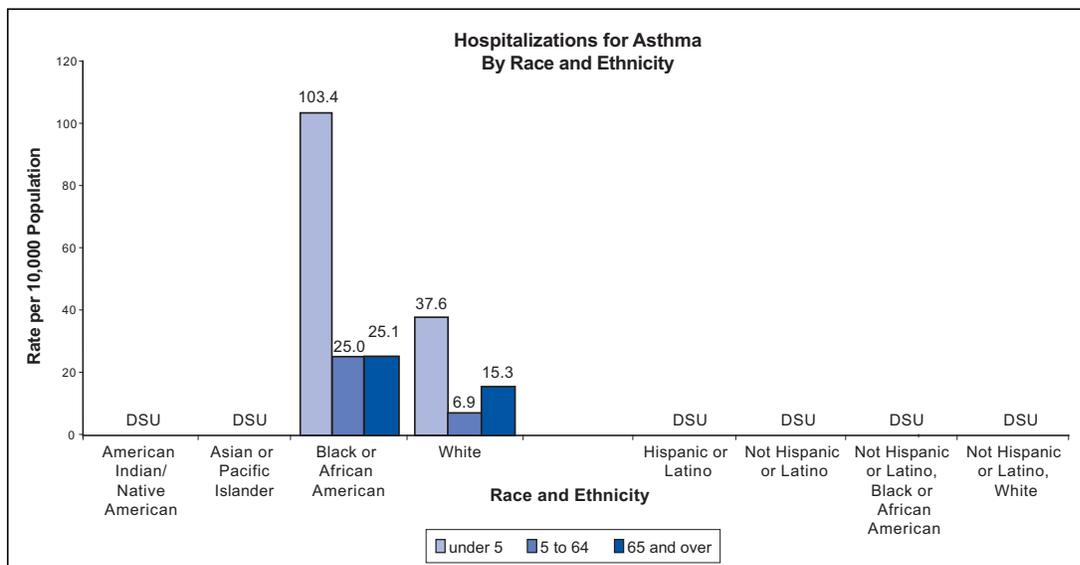
Blacks/African Americans have higher rates of hospitalization for asthma compared to Whites at all ages, but particularly for children under the age of 5 (Figure 16). Yet, Blacks/African Americans have the lowest rate of Internet use among racial and ethnic groups (Figure 15).

Figure 15



Source: Pew Internet & American Life Project's Daily Internet Tracking Survey, 2002–2003

Figure 16



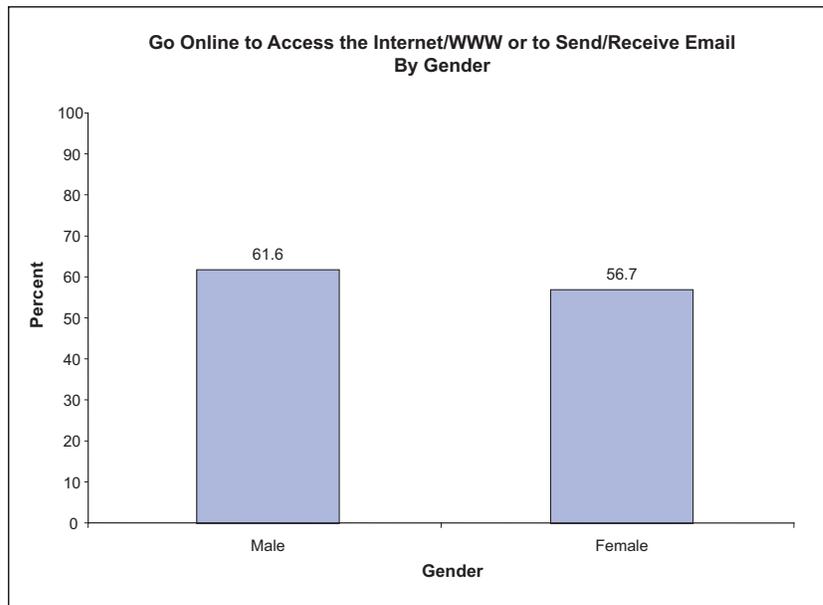
Source: CDC Wonder. DATA2010...the Healthy People 2010 Database. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, January 2004

DSU = Data do not meet the criteria for statistical reliability, data quality, or confidentiality.

### 3.2 Gender

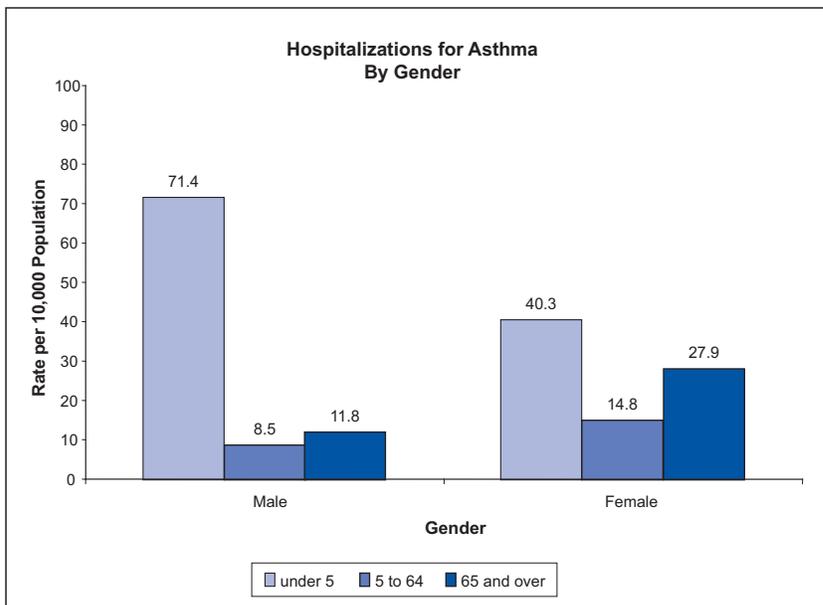
Male children have higher rates of hospitalizations for asthma compared to female children, while older females have higher hospitalization rates compared to older males (Figure 18). Internet use, in general, does not differ largely between males and females (Figure 17).

Figure 17



Source: Pew Internet & American Life Project's Daily Internet Tracking Survey, 2002–2003

Figure 18



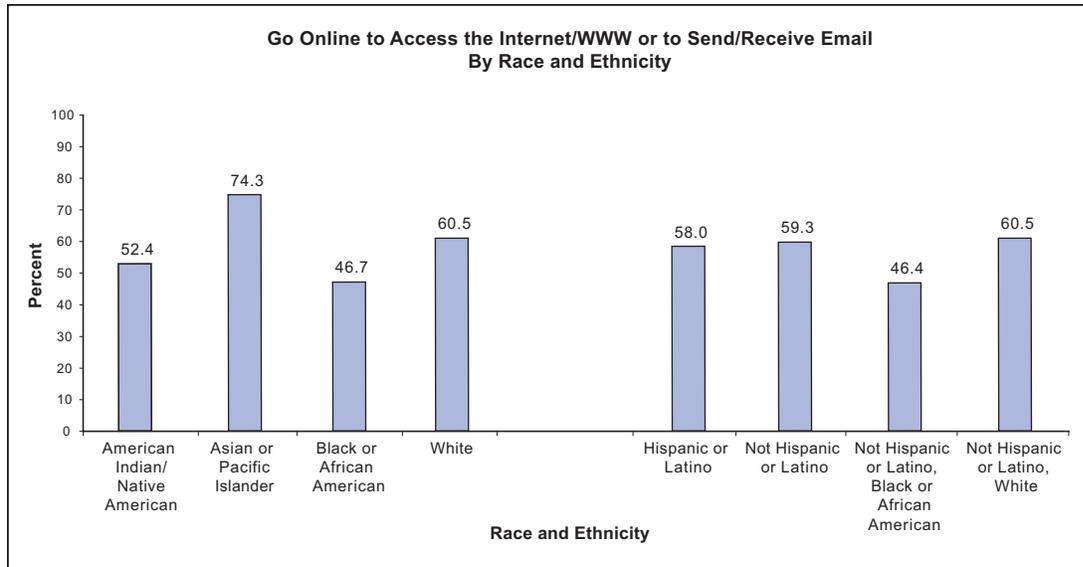
Source: CDC Wonder. DATA2010...the Healthy People 2010 Database. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, January 2004

## 4. CANCER

### 4.1 Race and Ethnicity

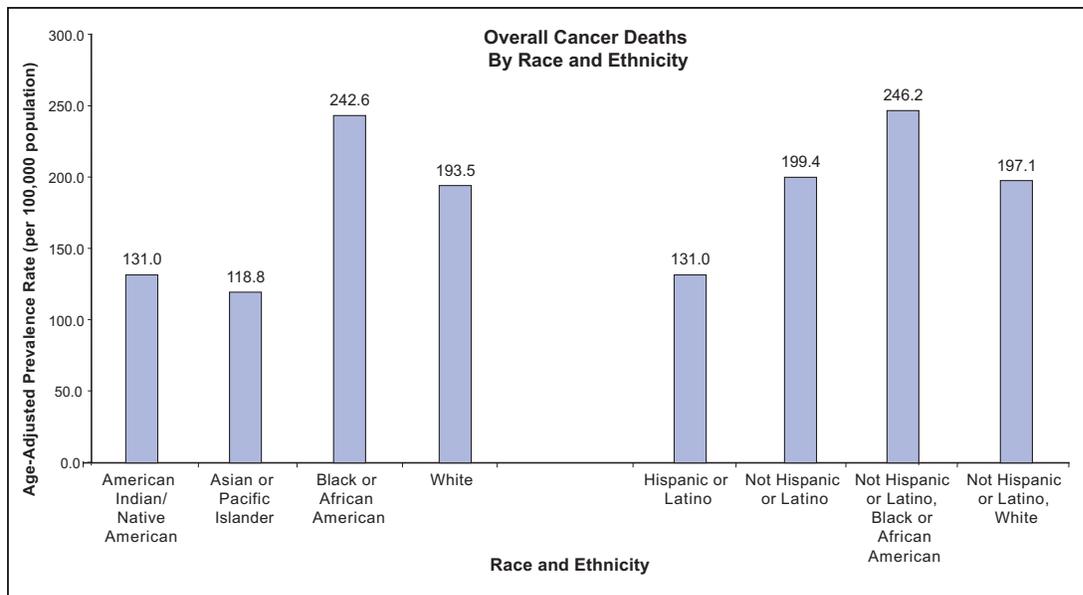
Blacks/African Americans face significant disparities in mortality due to cancer (Figure 20), and as illustrated in Figure 19, they have the lowest rates of Internet use.

Figure 19



Source: Pew Internet & American Life Project's Daily Internet Tracking Survey, 2002–2003

Figure 20



Source: CDC Wonder. DATA2010...the Healthy People 2010 Database. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, January 2004